

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A method for removing particulates from a strainer positioned in a contaminated water flow having particulates therein, said method comprising the steps of:

disposing a first outer surface of a stationary cylindrical porous member in the contaminated water flow to capture particulates against said first outer surface;

positioning a housing containing a single ultrasonic energy source within an inner region of said stationary cylindrical porous member defined by a downstream second inner surface of said stationary cylindrical porous member, said second inner surface permitting passage of a cleaned water flow;

isolating said stationary cylindrical porous member from said contaminated water flow;

activating said ultrasonic energy source to dislodge particulates from said first outer surface; and

sending a reverse flow of clean water through said second inner and first outer surfaces to evacuate said dislodged particulates from returning to said first outer surface.

2. The method of Claim 1 wherein said step of sending a reverse flow of clean water comprises sending a reverse flow of said contaminated water flow that has already passed through said second inner surface.

3. A method for reducing the amount of cleaned water required in cleaning a particulate strainer using a reverse flow system, said method comprising the steps of:

disposing a stationary cylindrical strainer in a first fluid flow to capture particulates against a first upstream surface of the strainer;

positioning a housing containing a single ultrasonic energy source within an inner region of said stationary cylindrical strainer defined by a downstream second surface, said second surface permitting passage of a cleaned fluid flow;

stopping said first flow;

activating said ultrasonic energy source to dislodge particulates from said first surface;

sending a reverse flow of said cleaned fluid flow through said second surface and through said first surface to evacuate said dislodged particulates from returning to said first surface; and

restoring the passage of said first fluid flow through said strainer.